Latham Adds Ex-Manatt Litigator With Asian Ties To LA Office

By Ben James

Yi-Chin Ho
Latham & Watkins

Law360, New York (March 12, 2013, 4:16 PM ET) -- Latham & Watkins LLP has bolstered its ranks in Los Angeles by adding a versatile litigator from Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP who has experience helping Asian companies handle antitrust, international trade, intellectual property and white collar matters in the U.S., Latham said Monday.

Yi-Chin Ho joined Latham & Watkins this week after more than 13 years at Manatt Phelps, where she served as director of Asia development and strategic growth. Ho, who speaks fluent Mandarin Chinese and Taiwanese, has developed a cross-border practice that focuses on helping Asian companies navigate the U.S. legal system.

“Although I am a litigator by trade, a large part of my work has now transitioned to an outside general counsel, advisory role,” Ho said Tuesday.

Ho's practice centers on representing Chinese and Taiwanese companies in cases including price-fixing and predatory pricing actions, patent litigation, U.S. International Trade Commission probes, white collar investigations and other complex commercial litigation. She has significant experience with arbitrations and mediation, as well as matters before state and federal appeals courts, including the California Supreme Court and U.S. Supreme Court.

Ho also advises clients spanning an array of industries, including the automotive, finance, life sciences, retail and technology sectors. She serves as primary outside general counsel for a number of Chinese and Taiwanese companies for their U.S. legal affairs.
Jim Beaubien, managing partner for Latham & Watkins' Los Angeles office, said in a statement Monday that the firm was delighted to have Ho on board.

“She built her impressive practice from the ground up, often by tapping into her extensive relationships in Asia and by providing practical and astute legal advice,” Beaubien said. “We’re confident that by combining her talents and relationships with the global platform and resources of Latham & Watkins, Yi-Chin’s practice will rise to new heights and our clients will benefit greatly.”

Ho pointed to Latham's commitment to expanding its practice in Asia as well as its ability to help her not only solidify but augment her existing client base as factors that drew her to the firm.

“I was attracted to Latham by many things, including the firm’s strong global platform and the work being done with cutting-edge companies in emerging markets,” Ho said in a statement.

When asked about cases she was particularly proud of her involvement in, Ho pointed to Wang et al. v. Chinese Daily News Inc., in which the Ninth Circuit this month partially overturned a lower court’s certification of a class of California-based employees of the Chinese-language newspaper.

“We have an opportunity to basically start fresh,” she said of the Chinese Daily News case.

Latham & Watkins has about 2,000 attorneys in 31 offices.

--Editing by Rebecca Flanagan.

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